

## REMARKS

The office action dated October 9, 2007 (the "Office Action") has been received and noted. Claims 1-7 were examined. Claims 1-7 were rejected. Claim 1 is amended. Support for the amendment can be found in, for example, paragraph [0019] of the Application. As such, no new matter has been added. Claims 1-7 remain in the application. Reconsideration of the pending claims is requested in view of the above-amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable alternatively over U.S. Patent No. 4,765,865 to Gealer et al. ("*Gealer*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,774,079 to Zechman ("*Zechman*"); *Gealer* in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,560,357 to Shaw ("*Shaw*"); *Gealer* in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,616,345 to Van Dijk ("*Van Dijk*"); U.S. Patent No. 5,173,149 to Nojiri et al. ("*Nojiri*") in view of *Zechman*; *Nojiri* in view of *Shaw*; and *Nojiri* in view of *Van Dijk*.

Claim 1 including a potentiostat, a tank, and a silver/silver chloride reference electrode coupled to the potentiostat. The potentiostat is set to maintain a potential difference between a substrate and the silver/silver chloride reference electrode at a fixed value -0.4 to +0.2 volts.

Claims 1-7 are not obvious over the cited references, because the references fail to disclose an apparatus including a potentiostat set to maintain a potential difference between a substrate and a silver/silver chloride reference electrode at a fixed value between -0.4 to +0.2 volts or provide any motivation or suggestion for providing a reference electrode at fixed value. Applicant respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the rejection to claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees. If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

Respectfully submitted,

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#### **CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted electronically via EFS Web to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on January 9, 2008.

Si Vuong

